

# **Status Report: Programmatic Subcommittee Work on Overwater Structure Maintenance and Repair Activities**

March 2004 Transportation Permit Efficiency and Accountability Committee  
Prepared by: Penny Kelley, Ecology & Gregor Myhr, WSDOT

## **Why are we here today?**

We are here to present a status report on the Programmatic Subcommittee's effort to develop multi-agency programmatic permit coverage for Overwater Structure Maintenance and Repair Activities.

## **Where are we now?**

On June 2003 the Programmatic Subcommittee developed final Unified Conditions document that covered WSDOT overwater and ferry structure maintenance and repair work. This final document resulted in the issuance of programmatic permits by both Ecology and Department of Fish and Wildlife.

On June 16, 2003 Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife issued a 5year general Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) permit that provides programmatic coverage for that agency for all of the activities covered in the Unified Conditions document. WSDOT is already using this programmatic permit in the field for various transportation activities and has realized time and cost savings associated with processing permit applications while continuing to protect the environment.

On March 3, 2004 Ecology issued a general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Waste Discharge permit to Department of Transportation. This permit authorizes discharges from maintenance washing (low pressure washing) and discharges from preparation for painting (high pressure washing) of bridges and ferry terminals in Washington State. Multiple conditions developed for pressure washing activities range from "no discharge" to surface waters at flows of 55 cfs or less to a requirement for tarps only at flows of 4200 cfs. Best management practices developed by the Programmatic Subcommittee and finalized in the Unified Conditions document were also incorporated into the permit.

## **Next Steps:**

WSDOT will fulfill monitoring and reporting and notification requirements associated with use of the permit.

### **Status of Programmatic Products:**

- ✓ June 2003 – Programmatic Agreement finalized.
- ✓ June 2003 – 5 year General HPA issued by WDFW.
- ✓ March 3, 2004 – Ecology issued NPDES Waste Discharge permit.

### **Terms and Conditions:**

#### **General HPA:**

- 5 year permit.
- Covers all bridge and ferry terminal maintenance work.

#### **NPDES Permit:**

- 5 year permit.
- Maintenance washing occurs during wet months (no containment).
- Painting prep washing can use tarp filter treatment on streams greater than 55 cfs.
- Painting prep washing must use full containment of wash water on streams less than 55 cfs.
- Monitoring discharge water is required.